

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2020

Upton Senior Center – 2 Farm Street, Upton, MA 01568

Virtual Meeting. In Attendance: Chair Laurie Fantini, Vice Chair Josephine McLaughlin, Secretary Myra Bigelow, Members Betty Consigli, Paula Lepore, Gregg Manning, Lori McGann, Richard Provost and Linda Sanders, Social Services Coordinator Jessica Mauro, Nutrition Center Manager Al Vautour, and Town Manager Derek Brindisi attended online. Members Margaret Watson and Grace Wadsworth were absent.

The September meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. The meeting was held using a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The August minutes were reviewed and one correction was suggested, changing line 2 to read “March to July”. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August minutes with that one correction; unanimous vote of the Board followed.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

With the regular flu season starting in addition to Covid-19, we probably will not be opening any time soon. We hope to keep the Center and town free from any new cases of Covid. Unfortunately, our planned “soft opening” on the patio did not happen.

The bus is still doing medical and shopping trips. Jim Earl has stepped up because driver Tina Smith is on medical leave and driver John Saulen is on vacation until early October. We are very grateful to Jim for all his help.

Jessica Mauro will be working eight hours per week for the Conservation Committee.

Thank you to Bernadette Denson for working very hard every month to keep the Chronicle interesting and informative.

Jan is very busy with her many committees’ work plus keeping the Center running smoothly. A pasta lunch to go was held in August. The Men’s Club gave us another great cookout to go in September. Thank you to all who helped. We plan to hold a breakfast to go in October.

The new plans for the Community Center have enlarged our usable space. Jan would still like our input on what we would like to see in the design of the Center.

The 100 day countdown to Christmas is still going on, with several ideas of fun things to do. Since we cannot hold our monthly birthday bash, we want you to let us know when your birthday is so we can deliver a little something sweet. The farmer’s market coupons given out by TriValley are greatly appreciated by all who received them. We are offering bus rides to some of the farm stands that take them.

37 **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT**

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39 Jessica will be working eight hours a week for the Conservation Committee. Due to her son's
40 schooling, she will be taking Tuesdays off.

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42 SMOC recertification is running smoothly. By scheduling afternoon appointments, Jes is able to
43 meet with some people in person to assist with applications. She attended the FY 2020 training
44 on September 27 and was given the proper paperwork to assist new applicants. The SMOC
45 program benefits start Nov. 1st but if applicants can apply early it would be a big help in getting
46 help early on.

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48 SHINE is meeting via Zoom. SHINE appointments were held only virtually or by phone but Jan
49 now has confirmation that Jes can meet in person as of August 25th. This is a major relief
50 because this process can be very confusing to many. Our website is updated to contain a SHINE
51 section. Feedback would be appreciated.

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53 SNAP and MassHealth recertifications need to be completed in a timely manner but Jessica
54 expects no one will be dropped at this time.

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56 **NUTRITION CENTER REPORT**

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58 Nutrition Center Manager Al Vautour had no report this month.

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60 There was a motion to accept the above reports. The motion was seconded and unanimously
61 approved.

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63 **OLD BUSINESS**

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65 There is a meeting September 15 to discuss increasing space in the new Center. All are
66 encouraged to come in to see the new plans.

67
68 Covid 19 is keeping the building empty, but we are trying to keep in touch with as many people
69 as possible.

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71 **NEW BUSINESS / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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73 Due to many problems with internet connections, the election of officers was postponed until
74 November.

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76 The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2020 at
77 10:30 a.m.